



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

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231 King's Highway East

April, 1959

PULITZER PRIZE HISTORIAN, ROY F. NICHOLS, TO SPEAK APR. 28 ON "NEW JERSEY'S COMING 300th ANNIVERSARY"

We are very fortunate indeed to have as our speaker for the next meeting of the Historical Society on Tuesday, April 28, the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Vice Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Roy Franklin Nichols.

Dr. Nichols needs no introduction to many of our members who either enjoyed his history courses at the University or have read his distinguished books in the field of American history, among which are *The Democratic Machine*, *America Yesterday and Today* (with A. A. Beard and W. C. Bagley), *The Growth of American Democracy* (with Jeannette P. Nichols), *Franklin Pierce*, and *The Disruption of American Democracy*, for which volume he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in history. Mr. Nichols' newest book is *Advance Agents of American Destiny*.

The eminent educator and historian comes quite naturally by his interest in New Jersey's coming 300th anniversary which will be celebrated in 1964. He was born in New Jersey in 1896, is a graduate of Rutgers University and now on its Board of Governors.

As students of New Jersey history know, this State, from the time the English took possession of the land

about the middle of the seventeenth century, was divided into two provinces—East Jersey and West Jersey. After some changes in the proprietorship of the Colony, West Jersey, the area in which Haddonfield is situated, came into the possession of twelve men, one of whom was the celebrated William Penn, whose connection with West Jersey began six years before he had anything to do with Pennsylvania. At the end of the century the two provinces were united into one. For a long time afterwards, however, the State was known as the "Jerseys."

It was Penn's influence in establishing a purely democratic government founded upon principles of justice and charity, with full freedom in regard to religious views, that attracted the Quakers, anxious to live where they would have liberty of conscience.

One of these Quaker families was that of John Haddon who purchased

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NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 1959

Time: 8:00 P. M.

Place: Lake Street Friends' Meeting
House



"HADDON HALL OF HADDONFIELD," the Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh house, was rebuilt in 1842 on the same site after the original dwelling was accidentally destroyed by fire on April 19, 1842. It is depicted here in a drawing by artist Raymond Bancroft of Collingswood. This is one of a series planned on a pictorial history of Haddonfield and South Jersey. Completed are historic subjects in Cape May, portfolio sketches of historic houses and scenes in Collingswood and a drawing, "Old Houses, Gloucester," which was loaned from an exhibition at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts to the Chicago Art Institute to hang in the American "black and white" section in the Institute's International Exhibition. These drawings mark the beginning of the first real body of work of South Jersey landmarks of historic interest. There have appeared single sketches "here and there" but, as pointed out by Howard R. Kemble, trustee of the Camden County Historical Society and a collector of South Jersey historical books and prints, "Bancroft's drawings represent the finest pictorial contributions to our history in South Jersey I have ever seen." A limited edition of 25 lithograph prints of the above drawing is being made available to members of the Haddonfield Historical Society in size 8" by 10" matted for framing at \$7.50 each.

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about 400 acres of land in Penn's "Jersey" about the year 1710.

The village of Haddonfield derives its name from this family and the story of how John Haddon, having no sons, sent his daughter, Elizabeth, a young woman about 20 years of age, to make settlement on the land, build a house and start a plantation is well known to Haddonfield historians.

Haddonfield will undoubtedly participate in the celebration of New Jersey's anniversary for it was one of the earliest settlements. The house built by Elizabeth Haddon had upon it the date "1713." It stood about a third of a mile from the center of the village (now 201 Wood Lane), back from the "Camden Road about 30 rods." It was built of brick and boards brought from England. Accidentally destroyed by fire on April 19, 1842, it was rebuilt on the same site. At about the time when New Jersey is preparing its 300th anniversary, Haddonfield will be commemorating its 250th year in 1963.

Dr. Nichols' talk will therefore have very special significance for all residents of Haddonfield and especially for the historians and antiquarians who are members of the Society. We're sure no member will want to miss hearing this renowned speaker on a subject so close to home.

NEW HEADQUARTERS PROGRESS

The new headquarters committee report that gifts from interested members of the Society are being received to insure the early possession of "Greenfield Hall," the proposed new, larger Society headquarters at 343 King's Highway East.

The sale of agreement was signed early this year, as reported in the last Bulletin, and a campaign for an endow-

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WASHINGTON AND HADDONFIELD

Members of the Society who attended our February meeting enjoyed "Another Look at Washington,"—a more balanced view of our first President than is usually given by many of his biographers—presented by Dr. George P. Schmidt, head of the history department of Douglass College, Rutgers University.

Dr. Schmidt summed up the man and the leader in terms that gave new insight into the evaluation of our national heroes and traditions. "It seems . . . that the biographers . . . are finally achieving a balanced view of Washington which reveals his true greatness without removing every vestige of humanity. They have portrayed for us a man who made mistakes, was sensitive to criticism, knew some gorgeous swear words, who lacked both the erudition of John Adams and the philosophic breadth of Jefferson. But they have also discovered a leader of men, whose influence over his contemporaries lay in his generally sound judgment, his loyalty, dependability, courage and integrity."

That these virtues heartened General Washington's army to survive hunger, cold, raggedness and despair is familiar history to every American.

What may not be so well known is this shining example of the devotion and courage Washington inspired in his men, which occurred right here in Haddonfield.

Haddonfield played an important role in the Revolutionary War. It was successively occupied by the American and British troops. Among the former was a "bold dragoon," named Miles Sage, who had been sent on an errand out of the village just before the British entered. He executed his commission, and rode back, as he supposed, to his

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friends. He stopped at Colonel Ellis' quarters, but finding it filled with British officers, remounted his horse and galloped on his way. The stars and stripes were still waving from the flag-staff; and, on passing, he gave three cheers for "Washington and Independence."

The British were formed in three ranks across the street, near the site of the Indian King Tavern. Sage bravely charged through two ranks, but his horse fell at the third. The soldiers charged upon him with fury, and pierced him with nine or ten bayonet wounds, when a little Scotch officer came up and bade them desist. He asked him if he were alive; and on receiving an affirmative answer, he had the young man conveyed to a neighboring dwelling and taken care of.

Sage survived to fight in many revolutionary battles, and to tell the tale of his Haddonfield scars to his many grandchildren.

The Historical Society of Haddonfield

Open Tuesday through Saturday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 o'clock.

Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor
Historical Society Bulletin

Send all editorial contributions to:
120 Warwick Road
Haddonfield, N. J.

HADDONFIELD LIBRARY

1803—1959

During this month, Library Week will be celebrated throughout the nation and an enlarged Haddonfield Library will open its doors.

It seems appropriate, therefore, to note that the Haddonfield Library Company was organized by members of the Society of Friends on March 5, 1803.

Over 50 volumes were presented to the company by Andrew Caldwell, John Evans and Joshua Cresson; the latter two were Philadelphia merchants.

In 1817 the library had accumulated five hundred volumes. Two shelves of the books of the original Haddonfield Library Company are now in the library room at Historical Society headquarters.

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ment fund is well underway.

The yearly maintenance of the new headquarters is being assured by pledges of three-year memberships: contributing membership, \$25 per couple per year; sustaining membership, \$10 per couple per year; and single membership, \$5 per year.

The Society is happy to report that its membership has grown considerably with the stimulus of the beautiful, historic old Gill house as its future home and its plan for outstanding exhibits and an educational program. There are now 527 members.